



Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report*

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Total children in county under
age 6: 2,282

Children under age 6 living in
poverty: 16.6%

Williamsburg County Highlights

- Local legislator donated \$5,000 to WCFS Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
- Jacob Timmons hosted benefits concert for WCFS Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, raised \$3,000
- WCFS awarded the Centers of Excellence Grant, \$400,000

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership Board is pleased with the progress that has been made in the partnership's efforts to reach out into the county to serve more children than ever before since its inception. The partnership was able to serve fifty eight additional children through the *Centers of Excellence* and *Early Reading First* Programs. The Centers of Excellence Program initiative infused child-care centers with comprehensive services to increase quality of care. The Early Reading First Program in collaboration with Georgetown School District, United Way and Georgetown First Steps is designed to ensure that young students in the rural, poverty-stricken area of coastal South Carolina receive enhanced learning opportunities critical for future academic success by transforming two existing, good quality early childhood programs.

The partnership continues to serve and increase the number of children and child care providers through the following six existing programs: (1) *Parent-Child Home Program* in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District impacted 38 children with 91% completing 30 minute sessions on an average of 6.44% visits per month; (2) *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)* received \$12,000 in community donations which impacted 363 children receiving more than 4,356 books; (3) *Child Care Quality Enhancement* awarded \$15,000 to three child care facilities serving 90 children; (4) *Child Care Training & Professional Development* served 192 child care providers who impacted more than 500 children; (5) *S. C. Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)* served 47 children in six approved CDEPP child care facilities, generating more than \$231K in revenue; and (6) *Countdown to Kindergarten* in collaboration with Williamsburg County School District served 27 children with 98% of children completing all 8 visits.

WCFS is very proud of the efforts that were made this past fiscal year, serving more than 1,120 children. We will continue to seek funding to sustain existing programs and serve more children.

Sincerely yours,
Carletta S. Isreal
Executive Director
Williamsburg County First Steps

First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:

Family Strengthening: A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

Healthy Start: Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

Quality Child Care: Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

Early Education: Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

School Transition: The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

Parent Child Home Visitation Program

Program description:

Williamsburg County First Steps has collaborated with Williamsburg County School District to implement the nationally known Parent-Child-Home Program. The home visitors are trained and certified in and use the Parent-Child-Home curriculum/materials when visiting families. In addition, all home visitors' certification is current, and caseloads are compliant with the Parent-Child-Home Model. Families receive a visit twice a week for two years. Visits are scheduled at the families' convenience to ensure that working parents and parents in school/job training programs can participate. Home visitors are trained to identify and report child abuse/neglect as appropriate. The program supervisor conducts randomly selected home visits and record reviews to monitor program delivery, maintain adequate program/office supplies, materials, and

equipment to ensure quality service delivery and administration. Parenting services are coordinated with other agencies for the purpose of recruiting parents/families for the program, and for referring parents/families to support services. Also, the Williamsburg County First Steps staff completes a pre and post PCHP monitoring site visit to ensure that the program is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

Program results:

- 38 children and 36 adults were served in the Parent-Child Home Program
- The partnership implemented two new assessment tools into the Parent-Child Home Program. These two new tools are the Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS) and the Adult-Child Interactive Reading Inventory (ACIRI). The KIPS is an evaluation of parenting behaviors related to interactions between parents and children. It involves an observation of a parent playing with his or her child for 20 minutes to examine 12 different behaviors. The KIPS is used to evaluate parents of children ages 2 months old up to 5 years of age. KIPS is an evaluation based on a 5-point scoring scale. The ACIRI is an observation tool that provides a means for family literacy teachers to assess joint storybook reading and to teach parents effective techniques for making reading more interesting and useful to their children. The adult-child literacy behaviors are divided into three major categories. These categories are Enhancing Attention to Text; Promoting Interactive Reading and Supporting Comprehension; and Using Literacy Strategies. Each category contains four interactive behaviors for a total evaluation of 12 specific literacy behaviors for the adult and 12 for the children. The ACIRI is an evaluation based on a 3-point scoring scale.
- The first year of implementing the KIPS and the ACIRI, parents' and childrens' interactions exceeded anticipated goals. Parents scored an average of 3.48 on a 5-point scale on the KIPS and average score of 2.11 on a 3-point scale on the ACIRI. Furthermore, 91% of these children completed a 30 minute session with a Parent-Child Home visitor at an average of 6.44 visits per month out of eight maximum visits.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL)

Program description:

Learning to read is a process much like learning to speak. The process begins at birth. By reading regularly with our children, we can give them the biggest boost towards a successful education they will receive; thus, making a huge difference in their future and the future of our communities. Every child born, whose parents apply and currently reside in Williamsburg County will receive a book from an age appropriate pre-selected list, until the age of 5.

Program results:

- 363 children received books through the DPIL in Williamsburg
- The DPIL is 100% funded by local community supporters. All funds received by supporters are used to purchase age appropriate books. The community also funds 100% of the DPIL Annual Fundraiser and Community Awareness Events and activities such as Back to School where other agencies and community partners set up booths and provide

children with back to school supplies. In addition, parents can register their children to receive books and free information from community agencies to support them and their children.

- WCFS was fortunate to have the Honorable J. Yancey McGill to donate \$5,000 to the DPIL. The partnership also had a former native of Williamsburg County, Jacob Timmons, to host a benefits concert in collaboration with the Town of Kingstree in October 2007. Timmons is currently a musician/singer who serves as a back up singer for Dolly Parton. Timmons invited The Moonlight Bandits to provide backup music for the concert. Special guest appearances were Dolly Parton's brother Randy Parton, his daughter Heidi Parton, and Indi Ortiz. Over \$3,000 was raised to benefit the children participating in the DPIL.
- High/Scope Educational Research Foundation conducted an evaluation of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in November 2003. As a result of this study, it is the belief that receiving high-quality and age-appropriate books will increase the quantity and quality of early literacy experiences. It is also the belief that receiving books in the mail can be an effective way to increase children's excitement about books. Nearly two thirds of DPIL program parents reported that they read to their child more frequently as a result of participation. Parents also report substantial benefits to program participation such as increased comfort in book sharing and greater knowledge of their child's reading level. Research has shown that literacy success and school readiness are related to socio-economic measures. As a result of this evaluation, it is also significant that parents reported outcomes were less negatively associated with parent education levels and two parent households. It appeared that the DPIL program affects households that needed support the most.

QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Child Care Quality Enhancement

Program description:

High quality childcare is an important element in achieving the national goal of having all children ready for school. NCEDL Research reveals that the quality of children's experiences in typical childcare centers affects their development while they are in child care and their readiness for school. Children who attend high quality childcare centers perform better on measures of both cognitive skills (e.g., math and language abilities) and social skills (e.g., interactions with peers, problem behaviors) in childcare and through the transition into school. These findings are reported by Ellen-Peisner-Feinberg and Richard Clifford at UNC. As a result of the numerous research studies, WCFS implemented the Child Care Facility Quality Enhancement Grants. These grants were designed to improve the quality of childcare programs in Williamsburg County. The partnership awarded three mini grants up to \$5,000. Centers receiving a grant were assessed using the appropriate Environment Rating Scale (ERS) to determine the materials and supplies needed to improve the quality of care for children. Furthermore, quality enhancement plans were developed with each child care facility to identify the necessary steps to move the center to a higher level of care. In addition, each facility will receive technical assistance on a bi-monthly basis from the county partnership staff and consultant.

Program results:

- 3 child care facilities were served
- All Williamsburg County day care facilities are Advocacy for Better Care (ABC) Enhanced and will continue to improve their ABC Enhanced scores
- Each child care facility received weekly visits from the Williamsburg County Public Library Bookmobile. The teacher and children are able to check out books with a Library Card.
- The executive director completed an ERS assessment on each child care facility prior to the purchasing of materials and supplies. In addition, the executive director along with child care facility director developed an action plan to address areas scored less than a 5 on a scale ranging from 1 (inadequate) to 7 (excellent). The action plan was implemented throughout the twelve months with bi-monthly technical assistant visits.
- 100% of providers expressed satisfaction with this program.

Centers of Excellence

Program description: The Centers of Excellence initiative infuses child care centers with comprehensive services to increase quality of care. Quality child care is provided for children ages birth to 4 years old and their families. The Centers of Excellence program has nine components which are: (1) **Scholarships for eligible children-** Williamsburg County First Steps Centers of Excellence served 34 children with scholarship in fiscal year 2008; (2) **Nurturing care and research-based instruction-** Program Curriculum used is the Creative Curriculum; (3) **Child assessment to guide learning experience-** Approximately 54 students were assessed with either E-LAP or LAP-3; (4) **Parent education and support to assist parents as they help their children learn-** 80% of parents attended parenting meetings held monthly. Families also received age appropriate books and toys for their children; (5) **Health screening and support for children-** 33 children were screened by a licensed medical practitioner and dental assistant; (6) **Quality enhancement for the child care center –** Quality enhancements were provided at both sites; (7) **Mentoring, training and credentialing for center staff-** Technical Assistant was provided at each site on a weekly basis. (8) **Staff incentives for increased levels of quality-** Incentives were given to all staff when they participated in professional development activities; and (9) **Sustainability plans for quality centers operations-** Sustainability of operation is one of the major goals of Centers of Excellence.

Program results:

- 34 children were served with COE funds.
- COE Families were identified by low income educational level, health issues and any other criteria that are considered at risk. 95% of our families served were identified as “at-risk”. Scholarships were given in the amount of \$65.00 per child per week and we continue to have a waiting list of families desiring services.
- The research based curriculum used in our program was Creative Curriculum. This curriculum allowed us to create an environment that was age appropriate and flexible to meet the needs of each individual child.
- We assessed approximately 54 students with either E-LAP or LAP-3 assessment. The numbers exceeded the 34 children served because the Early Reading First Program was

being implemented at the two sites. The E-LAP and LAP-3 are criterion referenced, age appropriate and child friendly assessments.

- Monthly parenting meetings were held at each site with 80% of parents in attendance. We provided helpful information in helping parents with their children. Parents also had a Parent-Child Home Visitor come into their homes bi-monthly to work with parent and child. Parents were delighted to have the home visitors coming into their homes and working with their children. At the end of each visit, the home visitor left the child an age appropriate toy or book.
- 33 children were screened by a licensed medical practitioner and dental assistant. Children's health screenings were shared with parents to encourage them to follow up with recommendations from the medical physicians.
- The Centers of Excellence Program provided much needed Quality Enhancement at both sites with emphasis placed on the infant and toddler rooms. They were enhanced by the installation of floor covering, purchasing of changing tables, sleeping cots, cribs, soft books, toy and etc.
- Mentoring is a major component of Centers of Excellence. The Centers of Excellence Coordinator spend approximately six hours per week between the two sites working in classroom with teacher and center directors and closely interacting with children. Time was also spent at the monthly staff meeting which were held at Williamsburg County First Steps Office.
- Staff incentives were given to all staff when they participated in all professional activities that were being offered by the Williamsburg County First Steps Partnership. For example, attending CPR Training, Health & Safety, Child Growth and Development, etc. was rewarded. Furthermore, state level required trainings included Creative Curriculum, Primary Care, and Leadership training for directors. The professional development activities are provided both to enhance professional knowledge and to prolong and maintain employment over a long period of time.
- The Sustainability of operation is one of the major goals of COE. We will continue to request state funds from the State Office of First Steps, local and state businesses, and write grants to insure long term sustainability of funds for operational use.

Child Care Training & Professional Development

Program description:

Child Care Training & Professional Development is designed to expand the quality of training for child care providers to meet the Department of Social Services requirements for the number of hours needed for training per year to improve the quality of care they provide to children in their care. All trainings were registered with the SC Center for Child Care Career Development (CCCCD) at a low cost to child care providers and conveniently located in Williamsburg County.

- 192 child care providers throughout Williamsburg County and surrounding counties were served in this program.
- 85% of Child Care Quality Enhancement facilities participated in eight or more scheduled trainings.

- A total of 25 hours of certified trainings were offered to child care providers in topic areas from child growth and development to health and safety.
- 95% of participating child care providers expressed satisfaction with the training provided, and especially with, the cost and the location of the training.

EARLY EDUCATION.

S.C. Child Development Education Pilot Program (CDEPP)

Program description:

CDEPP offers state-paid tuition of 4-year-old kindergarten classes to eligible students living in the 37 trial and plaintiff school districts involved in the school funding equity lawsuit, *Abbeville et al. vs. South Carolina*. First Steps oversees CDEPP 4K classes offered in non-public school environments. To qualify for state-paid tuition, a student's family must qualify for TANF or free/reduced-price lunch, be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2007, and live in an eligible school district.

Program results:

- 47 children were served in CDEPP
- 6 child care providers offered CDEPP 4K classes throughout Williamsburg County
- The following facilities were approved by the State Office of First Steps to serve children through CDEPP: Doodle Bud Academy, Graham's Enhancement Day Care Center, Kindale Park Day Care Center, Little Miss Muffet Day Care Center, Nesmith Community Day Care Center, Wilson's Day Care

Early Reading First-Full Day 4K

Program description:

The United Way of Georgetown County has joined forces with a coalition of early childhood advocates and professionals to implement *BLOCK: Building Literacy Opportunities for Coastal Kindergartens*. Partnering with United Way are: the public school district of Georgetown County; Little Smurfs Child Care Center; and First Steps of Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties, a public/private initiative promoting first grade readiness. We will ensure that young students in this rural, poverty-stricken area of coastal South Carolina receive enhanced learning opportunities critical for future academic success by transforming four existing, good quality early childhood programs, all currently working towards NAEYC accreditation, into high-quality early reading centers of excellence. Through introduction of a literacy-focused, scientifically based curriculum, *Ready, Set, Leap! (RSL)*, students will be provided with the types of language and literacy activities necessary to support age-appropriate development of four essential early reading skills: (1) Oral Language; (2) Phonological Awareness; (3) Print Awareness; and (4) Alphabet Knowledge

Program results:

- 24 children were served at two private child care facilities in Williamsburg County
- Children attended the program 6.5 hours per day, five days per week, 46 weeks per year to serve three and four-year olds
- 100% of the children qualified for free and reduced lunch; thus, showing impact to the neediest children.
- Teachers and paraprofessionals participated in over 228 hours of professional development activities that covered topics such as: child assessments, classroom

environment, language development, implementation of Early Literacy Curriculum: Ready, Set, Leap! (RSL); fostering early literacy skills, child development and signs of delay, and many more topics.

SCHOOL TRANSITION.

Countdown to Kindergarten

Program description:

Countdown to Kindergarten is a school transition strategy designed to successfully bridge the gap of at-risk students into the K-12 school environment. There are three components to this strategy:

- 1) PUBLIC AWARENESS: Practical tools and articles were distributed through South Carolina media and other community locations to help parents and communities prepare children for kindergarten
- 2) KINDERGARTEN HOME VISITATION: Three certified kindergarten teachers made 8 home visits to identify families/students during the summer prior to the student beginning Kindergarten. Participants were identified through a community partnership (local schools, First Steps, DSS, Head Start, faith partners, etc). Students were screened for participation and parent participation is required. During the home visits, children and families were introduced to actual materials used in Kindergarten classrooms, and are given a Kindergarten Transition Toolkit (books, puzzles, clay, blocks, floor mats, etc) to keep. The final visit is a “field trip” to the school where the child will attend class in the fall. Change in student and parent interaction is measured before and after participation. First Steps will build ongoing relationships with the COUNTDOWN teachers, children, schools, and families in order to measure long-term impact of student success and parent involvement.
- 3) COUNTDOWN CELEBRATION: Rising kindergarten students, their families and teachers will celebrate this important summer milestone at EdVenture Children’s Museum marking the end of home visits and the start of their school year.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN has three broad goals:

1. To increase successful transition of SC’s most at-risk children into the K-12 school environment;
2. To increase parent involvement in the early grades (particularly among the hard-to-reach at-risk community), when children’s learning is foundational for life success;
3. To build greater public awareness of the importance of school readiness and to provide simple ways for parents, caregivers, and communities to impact children’s early school success.

Program results:

- 27 children were served in the Countdown to Kindergarten Program
- Three qualified Kindergarten teachers served 1 to 10 students each over an 8-week period making one hour visits per week focusing on learning activities designed to prepare children and their families for success in kindergarten.
- 27 Kindergarten Tool Kits (clear plastic backpack) were distributed to children and their families that included a Social and Emotional Development guide for parents, crayons, pencils, scissors, glue sticks, a puzzle, play-doh, a Writing Journal, the stories Chicka

Chicka Boom Boom, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, and What Do You See? Plus many more materials to promote readiness..

- 94.44 percent of teachers (statewide) participating in Countdown to Kindergarten reported that the program made a positive difference in students' readiness for school. 100% of these same respondents agreed that the program strengthened their abilities to help participating students meet state curriculum standards.
- 98% of participants received all seven home visits
- 96% of children indicated that they liked the toys or books from the sessions using a scale of 1 to 5, (with 5 being strongly liked).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Expenditures By Funding Source</u>	
State Appropriation (<i>Fund 10</i>)	\$217,128
E.I.A. Appropriation (<i>Fund 55</i>)	\$17,845
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation (<i>Fund 60</i>)	\$230,617
C.O.E. Appropriation (<i>Fund 65</i>)	\$157,098
State Private (<i>Fund 15</i>)	\$20,497
Local Private (<i>Fund 20</i>)	\$12,882
Federal (<i>Fund 30</i>)	\$57,198
In-Kind (<i>Fund 25</i>)	\$61,261
TOTAL:	\$774,886

<u>Expenditures By Program / Strategy Name</u>	
Parents As Teachers (In-House)	\$17,946
Parent-Child Home	\$125,655
Imagination Library	\$13,008
Full Day 4-K (Private)	\$230,617
Full Day 4-K (House)	\$56,851
Countdown To Kindergarten	\$4,897
Childcare Quality Enhancement (In House)	\$59,718
Childcare Training & Professional Development	\$35,562
Scholarship Initiatives (In-House)	\$73,877
Psaras Rural Initiative (Private)	\$18,000
Public Health-Based Services (In-House)	\$13,434
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$81,157.00
Administrative Functions	\$48,230.00
TOTAL:	\$774,886

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
Anderson Brothers Bank	\$50.00
Angela's Beauty Salon	\$25.00
Early Reading First	\$65,794.00
FTC	\$2,464.00
Lola White	\$27.00
Norris Wootton	\$54.00
Ruby C. Lane for Imagination Library Benefit	\$3,049.00
SC First Steps	\$683,172.00
The Exchange Bank of SC	\$100.00
Town of Kingstree	\$5,000.00
Williamsburg County School District	\$1,460.00
Williamsburg County Treasurer	\$1,800.00
Williamsburg First National Bank	\$150.00
Wilson's Daycare & Learning Center	\$60.00
TOTAL: \$763,205	

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 69.01%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Debra G. Brown, Legislative Appointee
Bernice Cooper, School District
Joanne Davis, Child Care and Early Childhood development, Education provider
Ella Fulton, Early Childhood Education
Janice Gamble, Legislative Appointee
La'Dine Gamble, Pre School Child
Rev. Benjamin Graham, Faith Community
Valda Brown- Graham, Non-profit organization that provides services to families and children
Vastine Graham, Faith Education/Training Provider
Felicia Hampton, Transportation Provider
W.C. Henryhand, County Legislative Delegation
Kimberly Matthews, County Library
Maurice McBride, Early Childhood Education
Dewayne McClary, Non-profit organization that provides services to families and children
Lillie McGill, Non-profit organization that provides services to families and children
Sharon McGill-Johnson, Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Regina Nesmith, County Department of Health & Environmental Control
Barbara Parrott, Appointed by County DSS
Stanley S. Pasley, Legislative Appointee
Ritchie Phillip, Legislative Appointee
Jannie Singleton, Child Care and Early Childhood development, education provider
Beulah S. Vernon, Pre-Kindergarten through Primary
Wilhelmina Whitfield, Lane Head Start Program
Lisa Woods, Business Community

COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY08, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.

2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Williamsburg County

Total Children Under Six: 2,282

CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%

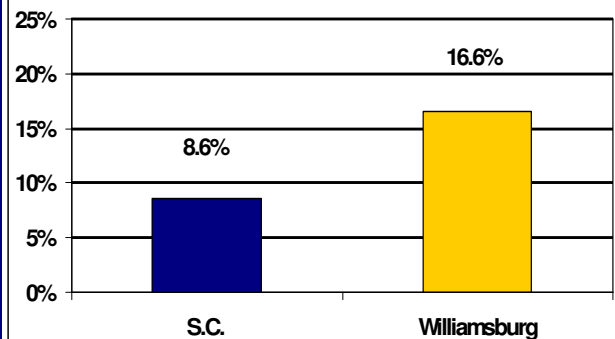
Williamsburg County (2007): 16.6%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 6 Williamsburg County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

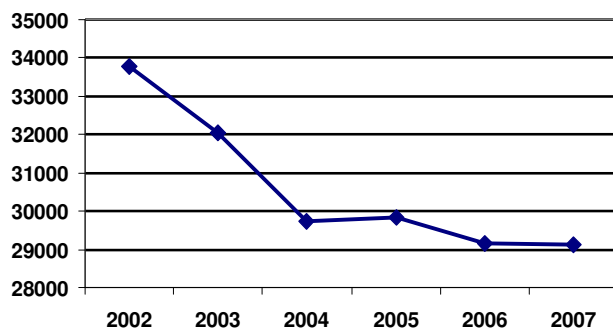
Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.

378 of Williamsburg County’s 2,282 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

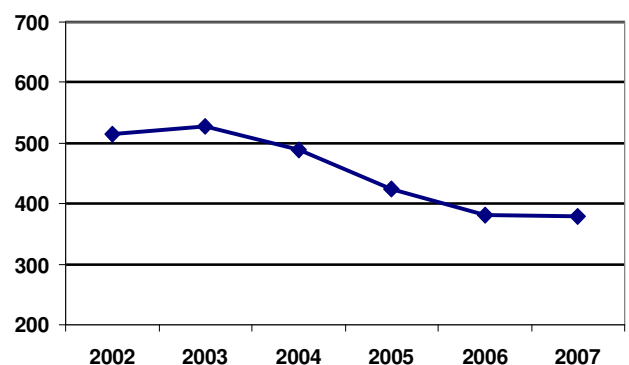
Children Under Age 6 Receiving TANF Benefits
(August 2007)



South Carolina Children Under Age 6
Receiving TANF Benefits
2002-2007



Williamsburg County Children Under Age 6
Receiving TANF Benefits
2002-2007



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Williamsburg County

Total Children Under Six: 2,282

CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

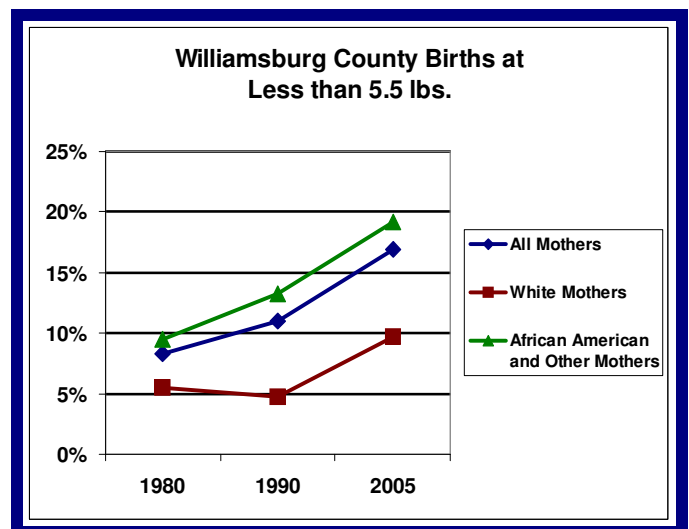
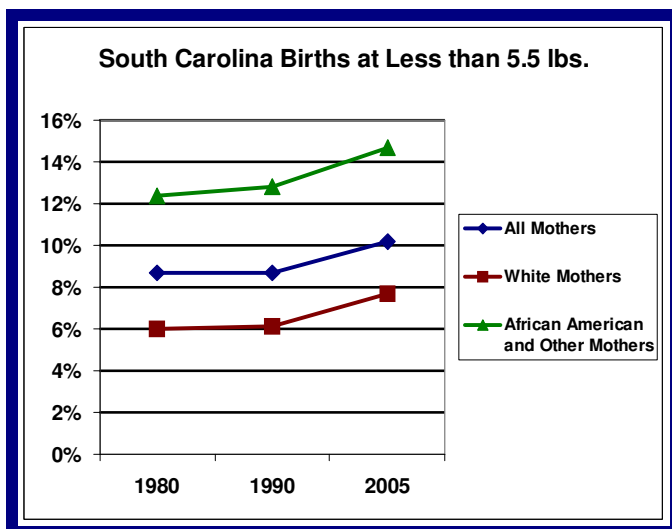
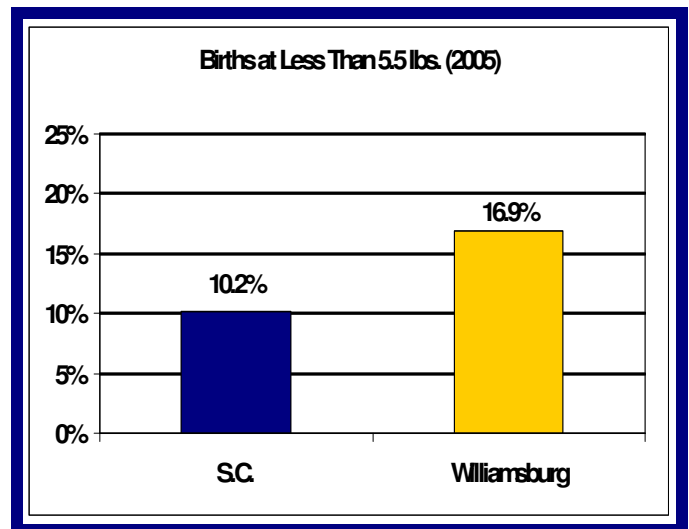
Williamsburg County (2005): 16.9%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 6 Williamsburg County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.

Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.

76 of the 451 children born in Williamsburg County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Williamsburg County

Total Children Under Six: 2,282

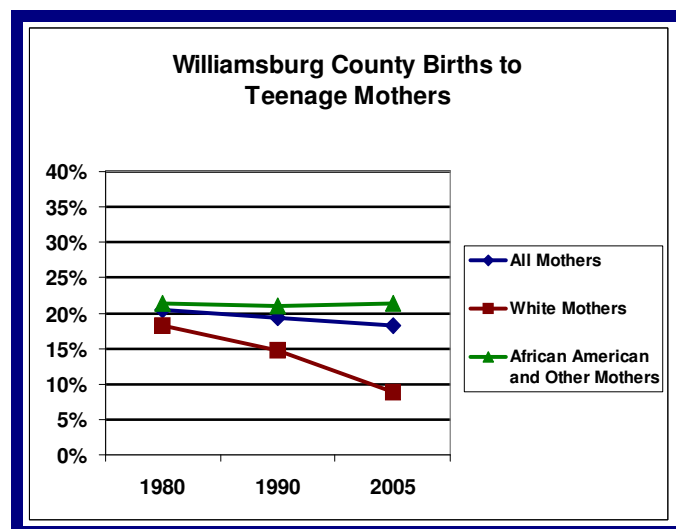
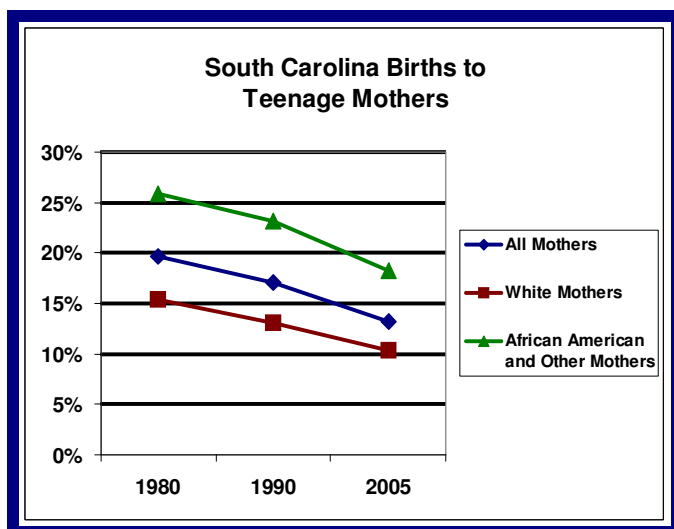
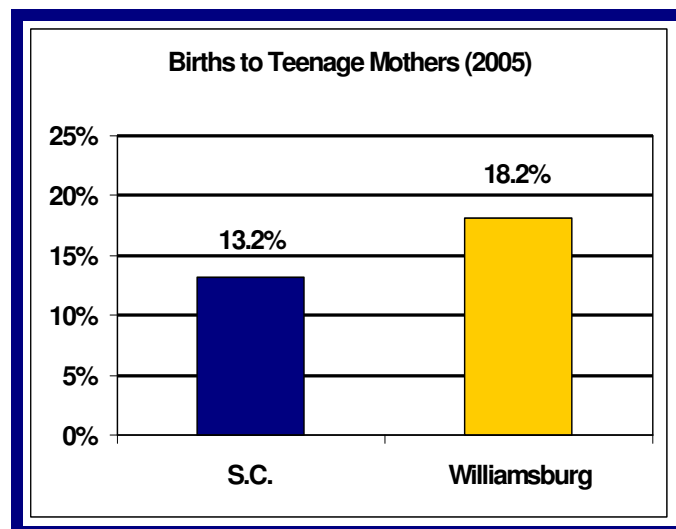
BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2% Williamsburg County (2005): 18.2%

Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 5 Williamsburg County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the "below basic" level (PACT) by third grade.

Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.

82 of the 451 children born in Williamsburg County during 2005 had teenage mothers.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Williamsburg County

Total Children Under Six: 2,282

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

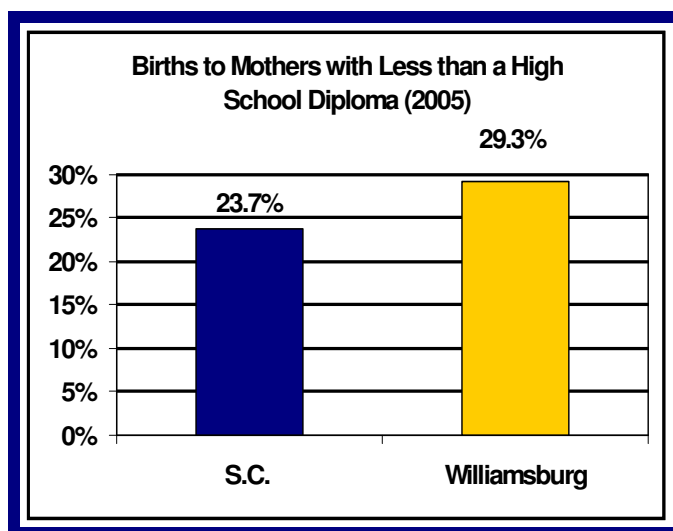
Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

Williamsburg Sumter County (2005): 29.3%

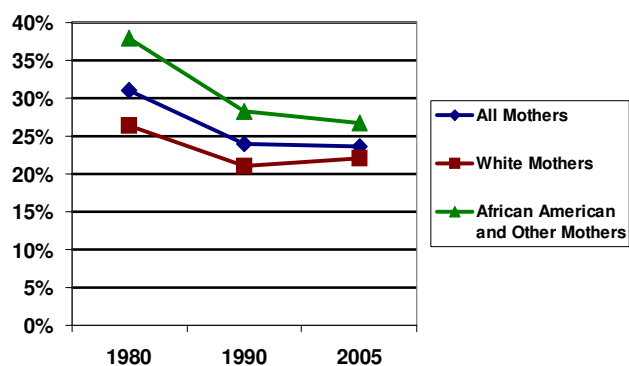
Fast Fact: Nearly 1 in 3 children in Williamsburg County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the "below basic" level (PACT) by third grade.

Research suggests that a mother's own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.

132 of the 451 children born in Williamsburg County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.



SC Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma



Williamsburg County Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma

